REMARKS

Pending Claims:

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-17 are currently pending. Claims 1, 6, and 7 are amended directly by this Response; claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and therefore are amended through their dependency. Claims 10-17 have been added. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Objections to Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted several informalities in claims 1, 6, and 7 which have been addressed by amendment.

The Applicant's Invention

The Applicant's invention is designed to allow a user to log into their preferred internet portal via a multi-user kiosk without having to enter his/her login information or enter his/her preferred portal URL. This is a two-stage log-in process: first, the user logs into the kiosk using their user identifier; then the kiosk system automatically logs the user into their preferred portal. To accomplish this, the kiosk system maintains a database that stores the user's preferred portal name or URL in addition to the user's portal login information (typically a screen name and a password) and this information (portal and portal login information) is stored in the database in association with the user's identifier. The user identifier must be unique to the kiosk system and need not (and perhaps never would be) the same as the user's login information for their preferred portal. In operation, the user presents their user identifier to the kiosk system and, using this identifier, the kiosk system accesses the user's stored data from the database, contacts the preferred internet portal and passes to the portal the user's login information.

The independent claims each recite elements that reflect this two-stage process:

Claim 1:

... b) database containing customer identifier stored in association with a customer's preferred internet portal and

customer's log-in information for logging into the preferred internet portal; said database coupled to said means for entering customer identifier for data communication therebetween; ...

       d)   ... said portal accessing means passing said customer's log-in information to said preferred portal ....

Claim 6:

       ... b)   storing customer's unique identifier in a database in association with that customer's preferred internet portal and portal log-in information;

       c)   coupling the kiosk to the database for data communication therebetween to allow the kiosk to send to the database a unique customer identifier and for returning to the kiosk the customer's preferred portal and log-in information;

       d)   connecting to the internet via the kiosk and logging into the customer's preferred portal using the customer's log-in information.

Claim 10:

       ... b)   storing customer's unique identifier in a database in association with the customer's preferred internet portal and portal log-in information;...

       d)   upon receiving the customer identifier entered via the input device, accessing from the database the customer's preferred internet portal and portal log-in information;

       e)   connecting to the internet by logging into the customer's preferred portal using the customer's log-in information; .. ..

Rejections and Cited References

       The Examiner has cited Butikofer in a 102 rejection of claims 1-3 and 3-6; and Butikofer in view of Terranova for a 103 rejection of claims 4 and 7-9. The Applicant respectfully submits that neither Butikofer nor Butikofer combined

with Terranova show or suggest the two-stage log-in process of the Applicant and therefore could not accomplish from a public or semi-public kiosk what the Applicant's claimed system and method are able to accomplish, i.e. providing automatic access to the user's preferred internet portal.

Butikofer describes a simple one-stage login process to provide access to subscribed content. That is, Butikofer's system receives a user identifier, then checks a database to identify what subscriptions are stored in association with that identifier. Butikofer does not then, as Applicant's claims recite, use the identifier to obtain and pass on a second batch of login information (e.g. screen name, password). Further, Butikofer does not suggest any such secondary login scheme.

Terranova, similarly, fails to show or suggest a dual login system or method. While Terranova does provide access to preferred internet sites, it does not show or suggest storing and using login data for those sites.

Because neither of these references shows or suggests a two-stage login scheme, their combination does not render the Applicant's claimed two-stage system obvious.

New Claims:

Claims 10-17 are new claims. Claim 10 has been discussed above. Claims 11-17 depend from one of the independent claims discussed above. These claims are supported by the Specification as originally filed.

CONCLUSION

All of the claims remaining in this application should now be seen to be in condition for allowance. The prompt issuance of a notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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